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12958, as amended ST 51667

ZCSHA611
PFTE JAW RUWYSC0888 1622003-EEEE--RUCIHS.
DE RUDLKD 1060 1521742
ZNY EEEEE
P 111742Z JUN 61
FM CINCUSNAVEUR
INFO RUDTCR/AMEMB VALLETTA
ZEN/USNATREP HAFMED
RUEDNKA/CINCLANTFLT
RUFRR/COMFAIRMED
RUTPRE/COMSERFORSIXTHFLT
RUTPP/CTG SIX ZERO PT FIVE
RUCIHS/DIRNAVSECGRU
ZEN/DIRNAVSECGRUEUR
Z 0 281650Z JUN 67
FM USCINCEUR
TO CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
USS AMERICA
INFO RUSS LIBERTY
SEC DEF
USDAO TEL AVIV
BT

331

07 JUL 17 20 36

II/wt

UNCLAS E F T O ECAP 292.9. SUBJ: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE
1. FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN WASH DC:
A. A U.S. NAVY TECHNICAL RESEARCH SHIP, THE USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5)
WAS ATTACKED ABOUT 2920 A.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME TODAY. APPROXIMATELY
FIFTEEN MILES NORTH OF THE SINAI PENINSULA IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS
OF THE MEDITERANEAN SEA. THE LIBERTY DEPARTED ROIA, SPAIN JUNE 2,
ARRIVING AT HER POSITION THIS MORNING TO ASSURE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN
U.S. GOVERNMENT POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO ASSIST IN RELAYING
INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN DEPENDENTS AND
OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST.
B. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT
THAT THE ATTACK WAS MADE IN ERROR BY ISRAELI FORCES AND AN APOLOGY
HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM TEL AVIV.
C. THE INITIAL REPORTS OF CASUALTIES ARE: FOUR DEAD AND FIVE THREE
WOUNDED. THE LIBERTY IS STEAMING NORTH FROM THE AREA AT A SPEED OF
EIGHT KNOTS TO MEET U.S. FORCES MOVING TO HER AID. IT IS REPORTED THAT
SHE IS IN NO DANGER OF SINKING.
2. FOR COMSIXTHFLT/CTF 62: ABOVE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO NEWSMEN AT SEA
ASAP. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN ANSWER TO IN-
QUERIES:
SHIP WAS ATTACKED BY MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT AND AIRCRAFT. ONE TORPEDO
HIT. THE SHIP WAS ARMED WITH FOUR 50-CAL. MACHINE GUNS AND IT IS NOT
KNOWN IF SHE RETURNED FIRE.

COG: G521.....

INFO: G50.....G52.....G.....FOLDERS.....

THE CREW CONSISTED OF ONE FIVE OFFICERS, TWO SEVEN FIVE ENLISTED, AND THREE CIVILIAN TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES.

DIMENSIONS OF THE SHIP: LENGTH FOUR FIVE FIVE FEET, BEAM SIX TWO FEET, DRAFT TWO THREE, DISPLACEMENT ONE ONE ZERO ZERO TONS. SHE IS DESIGNATED AN AGTR (TECHNICAL RESEARCH SHIP).

THE MISSION OF THIS TYPE SHIP IS TO CONDUCT TECHNICAL RESEARCH OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF U.S. NAVY ELECTRONIC RESEARCH PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDE ELECTRO- MAGNETIC PROPAGATION STUDIES AND ADVANCED COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, SUCH AS SATELLITE COMMUNICATION. YOU MAY NOT GO BEYOND THIS DESCRIPTION.

SHE IS NOT A COMBAT SHIP. SHE MOVED TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO HELP PROTECT AMERICAN NATIONALS AS THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR SUCH PROTECTION BECAME APPARENT. HER LOCATION AT THE TIME OF ATTACK: WAS THREE ONE DEGREES TWO THREE MINUTES NORTH, THREE THREE DEGREES TWO FIVE MINUTES EAST.

3. FOR ALL: DETAILS OF RESCUE/ASSISTANCE ARE UNCLASSIFIED AND MAY BE RELEASED WHEN AVAILABLE.

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